

June, 1921.



L'UMILE PIANTA

Officials of the Association,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—

MISS L. GRAY, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—

MISS F. W. YOUNG, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

Hon. Editor—

MISS J. R. SMITH, 9, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh.

Students' Executive Committee Members—

MISS G. M. BERNAU, 13, Bryanston Street, W.1.

MISS V. C. CURRY, Ferndale, Roseberry Road, Bushey.

MRS. ESSLEMONT, 226, Gloucester Terrace, W.2.

MRS. PICTON HUGHES-JONES, Pond Hill Cottage, Cheam,
Surrey.

MISS M. W. KITCHING, 18, Hastings Road, Ealing, W.13.

MISS M. LAMBERT, 127, Craven Road, W.2.

MISS R. A. PENNETHORNE, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

MISS K. OSBORNE, 52, Eriffield Road, Ealing, W.5.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1918. ALLEN, M. (Mrs. HAROLD ALLEN), Dunkeld Dickoya, Ceylon.
1894. (Dec.) BARRETT, M., West Bank, Upton, Macclesfield (post address).
1908. BENNETT, NEVILL, P. C., Ashlar Mount, Rainhill, Lancashire.
1916. BOXSHALL, K., 66, East Street, Farnham, Surrey (post address).
1920. FRASER, M. H., c/o Mrs. BELLERBY, Sandrock, Horsham Road, Dorking, Surrey (post address).
1912. FEILING, D. I., Muntham Court, nr. Worthing, Sussex.
1901. HIRTZEL, S. (Mrs. ALBRECHTSEN), c/o CHILDS & JOSEPH, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, E. Africa.
1915. VINCE, H. F., 18, Mansion House Road, Edinburgh (post address).
1903. WIX, H. E., 75, Evington Road, Leicester.

BIRTH.

IRWIN.—On May 23rd, 1920, at 2, Howard Terrace, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, to Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Irwin (née Noble), a daughter, Margaret Patricia.

MARRIAGES.

ALLEN—ALLEN. On Thursday, December 30th, at Christ Church, Colombo, Margery, daughter of Dr. W. C. L. Allen, Ambleside, to Harold Allen.

GAYFORD—FOULGER. On March 29th, at Hardingham, Edith Mary, daughter of Frederick Gayford, to Philip Foulger.

NOTICES.

We should like to offer our heartiest congratulations to Miss H. E. Wix on her appointment as one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and to wish her every success in her new work.

Miss Bernau and Miss Flewker, 13 Bryanston Street, W.1, have had to turn their spare room into an extra class-room so they regret that, in future, they will be able to let it to students for Friday and Saturday nights only.

Miss Bernau has the following books for sale second-hand:—

Citizen Reader, Sea Power (2 copies), Sciences (2 copies), Siepmann's French, Parts I. and II., French Fables in Action, Jack's Insects, 2 Tonic Sol-Fa (Ten Minutes).

Miss Other, Great House, Hambledon, Godalming, has the following books for sale second-hand:— 'The British Museum for Children' (1/10½ and postage), Ambleside Geography, Bk. IV. (1/9 and postage), Siepmann's Primary French Course (1/6 and postage).

Miss K. M. Clendinnen, 19, Marston Street, Oxford, has the following books to dispose of at the price mentioned plus postage: Two copies (Vol. I.) Arnold-Forster's History, 1/6 each. Two copies Ambleside Geography, Bk. II., 1/-. Two copies Ambleside Geography, Bk. III., 1/3. One copy of Ambleside Geography, Bk. IV., 1/3. One copy Arnold-Forster's 'This World of Ours,' 1/-. One copy Mrs. Creighton's History of France, 1/-. One copy Holden's 'The Sciences,' 1/-. One copy Experimental and Practical Geometry, 1/-.

Miss H. N. McLeod (109, Church Road, Richmond) is starting a class in September and would be glad to hear from anyone who has second-hand books for sale for Forms I. and II.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on October 15th. All communications should be written on *one* side of the paper only and must reach the Editor (7, York View, Pocklington, E. Yorks.) before September 15th.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

JUNE 25th, 1921.

The Annual Meeting has been brought forward to the last Saturday in June because of the P.N.E.U. Conference, and we hope that before that date trains will be more normal and that there will be a large gathering. We are to meet once more at Kew Gardens. Will those who would like to have some time in the gardens first meet at the Main Entrance on Kew Green at 2-45. Tea will be ready at 4 o'clock in a private room at Carlton House, which lies between the bridge and the main entrance, and those who cannot get away early enough for the Gardens could meet there. There will be time for discussion after tea which is to be 1/3 per head. Will all who hope to be there kindly send in their names as soon as possible to Miss R. M. Williams, 300, Kew Road, Kew, Surrey. I am sorry I shall not be able to be there, but I expect to be in Devonshire so that it is quite impossible. I hope that the meeting will be a great success in every way.

LILIAN GRAY.

The next Students' Meeting will be held at the Leisure Club on Saturday, October 1st, at 3-30.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

Up to the present 57 Students have paid the full fee of five guineas, and 23 Students are paying by instalments. The amount standing to our credit at the Bank is £310 12s.: this is on deposit at 5%, but of course it does not bring in as much money as a 5/- subscription from 80 students. Will all students who are still paying annually be sure and let me have their subscriptions as soon as possible. The list of unpaid ones for 1920 is still a painfully long one, as only three students have responded to my appeal. Please pay your debts for we have to recover lost ground, and naturally depend on the subscriptions for funds. 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex, will always find me.

LILIAN GRAY.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Miss Bernau's kind arrangement for taking students round the British Museum on February 12th had to be postponed till March 12th. On that day nine students turned up and Miss Bernau took us through the Egyptian Gallery and Rooms, showing us particularly the things mentioned in the chapter of Mrs. Epps' book that is set for the Easter Term. It was all most interesting and helpful and one just longed to hear more and have time to sketch some of the objects. The Rooms have been rearranged since the last edition of the book was published, so it is useful to know just where to find what one wants to see and to show the children when taking them over. There is such a tremendous lot to see that unless one is able to pick out the best and important things for them to look at they might come away with a rather confused impression of what they had seen, instead of getting real joy and knowledge out of their visit. We all felt greatly indebted to Miss Bernau for having spared us a half-holiday and given us such a delightful impression of ancient Egypt.

K. LOVEDAY.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Will all students note especially the meeting arranged for 'young people' on their Conference programme when Lily Montagu is speaking, to be followed, we hope, by some of the 'Old Girls.' We do greatly hope that as many students as possible will not only bring their *present* pupils, but tell all their past pupils about it, so that a really representative gathering may meet and take advantage of the opportunity to talk over the Old Girls' Association.

LETTERS.

House of Education,
Ambleside,
March 7th, 1921.

My Dear "Bairns,"

I am rather anxious as you all know that every student should make some provision for her future while she is able to work. I have considered the matter from every point of view, more particularly as House of Education students are not eligible for Government pensions. I have also taken expert advice and the result is that I should like to lay before you the possibility of taking up a Deferred Annuity in the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.

For example, "a young woman has only to deposit £10 3s. per annum to secure £100 a year for life, commencing when she reaches the age of 60." Of course an older woman would pay a higher premium, and again a higher income could be obtained by increasing the premium. Again, some of you may have a legacy, or money invested, which you could use for buying an annuity at once instead of making a yearly payment.

Full particulars of many forms of annuity offered can be obtained from the Offices of the Company,—Canada House, Norfolk Street, London.

The Company make all business arrangements, take over and sell shares, make any necessary transfer free of charge; they will also consider the means at the disposal of the annuitant and propose the form of annuity that best meets the case in question.

It is possible that the Students' Association might sometime be in a position to help a student who, through illness, was not able to pay a yearly premium, that is, would lend her the £10 3s. for instance, which she could return when at work again.

No doubt many of you have already made satisfactory provision but I should be very glad if I knew that all my friends would consider the matter seriously.

With love, I am always your affectionate friend,

CHARLOTTE M. MASON.

Dear Editor,

May I appeal through these pages to some students whose lot is cast in beautiful country surroundings to come to the help of an elementary school for Physically Deficient children in Tollet Street, A'derney Street, Mile End Road, in the depths of East London. No green thing is visible from the school playground, and most of the 'poor dears' who attend the school have no gardens of their own, so nature work and brush-painting present very great difficulties. A regular supply of country bits and wild flowers (one boot-box full a week) would be an enormous

boon and help the head-mistress and the art-mistress who are doing grand work under grave difficulties. At the present rate of postage I think it would be too much to ask any person to do this every week, but would three or four bravely volunteer and send me their names so that I could arrange for something to be sent in rotation? The school is one which would melt the heart of anyone who has not seen children before at work under such disabilities—there is our C3 population indeed. It is not yet doing the 'Parents' Union' work, but it hopes to do so one day, and in the meantime we might help to forge a very strong chain of love and interest with it. I hope some will really respond and let me have their names at once so that none of these summer weeks may be wasted.

Yours,

R. AMY PENNETHORNE.

Scale How,
Ambleside.

Dear Old Students,

There is so much to say that we hardly know where to begin!

At the end of last term we had a delightful performance of "Quality Street," by the juniors; it was extraordinarily well acted and the parts very well chosen. We enjoyed it very much.

This term we are all so busy (as is hardly necessary to mention) studying Practical Geography in the form of Geography walks, etc., etc.

We have welcomed a new member of staff in Miss Limbert, who has come to teach music to the College in the place of Miss Amey who is unable to come back.

It seems utterly incredible but we have almost finished with school! Some of us have already done so and we hardly know whether we are more glad or sorry! Now we are looking forward to "Junior Walk."

Meanwhile the weather has been on the whole fine, and we have been enjoying long walks towards such places of 'historic' interest as Hawkshead and Troutbeck!

Miss Mason has been very ill; but is much better and able to come down again.

We are hoping for a visit from Mr. Thornley this term. There has been great excitement over the sight of a cornerake, and the fact that a Ring Ousel is believed to be building on Earn Crag.

Yours sincerely,

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

Dear Editor,

It has been on my mind for some time to protest about many things that are happening in connection with the O.S.A.

It seems to me that as an association we are not so united, so

alert, nor so useful as we might be. I think that possibly Miss Mason might find us a better support and more reliable if we were a little more independent and self-reliant. At present I greatly fear she must find the Association but a broken reed!

I know that our beloved head and founder counts us all missionaries and thinks of each one of us as a personal helper, but we number a goodly company now, and as a body we ought to be of some account, not merely to ourselves, but to Miss Mason; and also to other educational bodies, whereas we know very well that the association counts for very little even to ourselves! It is lifeless, lethargic and helpless. A few (a very few) members manage all the business and decide what shall or shall not be done. All the other members seem to care not a whit and neither approve nor disapprove. They are luke-warm, like the Laodiceans. For example, the question of life membership came up during the last Ambleside Conference and a resolution was passed but nothing further was done until last year, when Mrs. Gould persuaded a few students to become life members.

Then again it came as a bomb that there was to be no conference this year, but no one protested! Yet again surely it is part of our constitution that members of the Executive Committee (including ex-officio members) be appointed biennially. There has been no election this year so far as I know, so I presume that the S.E.C. has quietly re-elected itself! At least I hope so, for it would be a very great pity not to have an Executive at all, although one regrets that it has been so drastic about the Conference. In the March *PIANTA* I notice that the S.E.C. "decided that the Ambleside conferences are to be triennial instead of biennial": I, for one (and I think many others will agree with me) protest against this change being made without consulting all the members of the association. If no other means were possible surely there could be a post card vote.

Possibly you will consider me discontented (I hope it is with a divine discontent!). Yet there is one other point I should like to mention. We, who are unable to attend students' meetings, business or otherwise, are of course charmed to hear about the weather or scenery, etc. At the same time we should like a *separate*, concise and business-like report of the business part of the proceedings. Indeed would it not be a good plan to publish merely the minutes of each meeting exactly as they are entered in the minute book, if such a book exists?

Yours truly,
J. MACFARLANE.

St. Margaret's School,
Hill Crest, Natal,
February 12th.

Dear Editor,

As I am an ex-student who has been teaching for nearly a year in a South African school, will you allow me to discuss the

points raised in the letter about Educational opportunities in South Africa, which I have just read in the January number of the *PIANTA*? The letter seems to me to give an entirely false impression of the conditions here. I have met about thirty teachers in schools since I have been here, Dutch as well as English (the former were certainly not the least well educated and "gentle"), and although there is undoubtedly strong feeling between the two nationalities, still any one coming here with the idea that more than half the white population of the country are "filthy beasts" will certainly do more harm than good. I should like to protest most strongly against such expressions as are used in that letter being printed in our *PIANTA*. The author is evidently quite unqualified to discuss points of language.

It would be quite unsuitable for any student to take a post in a Government school here. The Government syllabus has to be followed very closely and frequent public examinations are the rule. It is true that Government school teachers are highly paid, but here again the letter is very misleading. I quote: "Anybody began with £120" (presumably resident, though the rest of the sentence is ambiguous), but the writer does not explain—perhaps does not know—that more than half this is absorbed by unavoidable holiday expenses, and that the customs duty being 25% the prices of all imported goods are very much higher than they are at home.

The salaries in private schools are not, as a rule, high; partly owing to the fact that prices of foodstuffs have risen from one to two hundred per cent, partly owing to the question of labour.

I have no doubt that there is room for a few more good private schools, but it would be quite impossible for young English women to come out here and start such schools themselves. The difficulties are enormous. Educational work here is most interesting and satisfying as it is everywhere. But in South Africa as in England it is a profession that must be followed for the love of the work and the children rather than in the hopes of earning a large salary.

I am, yours faithfully,
MARGARET G. OWEN.

A TOUR IN SIKKIM.

We started for our trip to the Jelap La (Pass) on the Borders between Sikkim and Thibet on the 15th May. We had to find a carriage in the Calcutta Mail crowded with people going to Darjiling. At Siliguri we got the little train which runs up the Teesta Valley as far as Kalimpong Road Station. About 12 miles from Siliguri the train enters the foothills of the Himalayas and at a small place called Svok, where there is a station we come to a point where the Teesta River flows out into the plains. From this point the train runs along close to the river and we get some beautiful glimpses of the river as it winds its way, through

the mountains. As we go further in, the mountains rise higher and higher, covered with forest and tropical vegetation from top to bottom.

At Kalimpong Road Station passengers for Kalimpong mount ponies or Dandies and cross the river at the Teesta Bridge, which is seven miles from K'pong.

We had arranged our route up the Teesta Valley to enter Sikkim at Rungpo. Ponies and coolies met us at K'pon Road Station and we had a ride of three miles to our first Dak Bungalow called Melli Bungalow. Here we were very glad to rest until the next morning. The scenery to Rungpo is much the same all the way. At Rungpo we gave up our Passes into Sikkim and stayed the night at the Dak Bungalow. The next morning we left the Teesta River and followed the course of the Rough River, which joins the Teesta at Rungpo. We rode for fourteen miles up a very pretty but hot valley at this time of year, until we came to Rough's Dak Bungalow. This is a pretty little place at a height of 2,700 feet at the entrance to a long narrow valley.

The next morning we began our climbing and started upwards. At first, we had six miles of fairly easy road through deep valleys. The mountains now rising vertically on either hand. At Rough we joined the Thibetan Trade Route down which come, while the Jelap La or Pass is open, thousands of mules laden with wool and other goods from Thibet. Each mule has a bell or string of bells round its neck and the sound as they trot along is very musical. Great big boned Thibetans or Bhutias accompany them and very often they have dogs with them. Some of the dogs are thickhaired big brutes who feel the heat in the valleys very trying; they run along with their tongues out and are nervous looking animals. Some are tiny Thibetan Spaniel.

When we had ridden six miles we came to the foot of the enormous mountains up which we had to climb like flies to get to the Jelap La; the road here can only be described as a stone staircase, very broken and in need of repair, about six feet broad. We struggled up two miles at a gradient of about 45° , through a thick forest and arrived absolutely done, in a heavy shower (the only one we had) at our Resting Place, Sedongchen Dak Bungalow. We had climbed to 6,700 feet and we were pleased to get in, though we found the place crowded. The rain cleared away towards evening and we saw that we were surrounded by enormous hills covered with forests. A note had been left for us at Sedongchen by friends whom we were to meet at Gratong, our next stopping place. They told us we had nine miles of a ride next day. It was the longest nine miles we ever hope to experience. The road for six miles this time was similar to the last two miles of the day before, the narrow broken stairway, six ft. broad, going through heavy forest for some miles. We met mules all along the path coming down, and we put our ponies into a corner until they passed, as a slip or a knock might have sent

us flying hundreds of feet down the precipice at the side. We crawled up and up, round and round, zig-zag, like insects going up a corkscrew, until we had risen 10,000 ft. Here we came to a place called Sing Tans, which consists of two or three stone huts, the roofs held down by stones. The path now for half-a-mile wound round the side of a mountain with a sheer precipice of at least 3,000 ft. below us on one hand and the mountain rising on the other hand vertically above us. Here we came on the snow. It was fast melting and coming down the gullies in the mountain side. At two or three points the path was broken and the ponies refused to take us through. I was very glad to dismount and trust to my own feet to get through. From the top of this mountain, which had it been a clear day—but there was a thick mist rolling up—we should have got a good view of the Plains. When we had got round this bit we came on beautiful rolling downs covered with Rhododendrons. We had seen the Rhododendrons from about 9,000 ft, and in May they are at their best; they were simply gorgeous and would repay all the fatigue of climbing to such a height just to see them. They grow to the size of large trees, at 10,000 ft. and were covered with blossom from pink to bright scarlet and from deep yellow to white in colour. Then the ground at this height was ablaze with Alpine and English flowers, pink and deep purple primulas, primroses, violets, little pansies, strawberries, white and blue anemones, blue gentians and begonias. It was not just a few one had to look for but great masses of flowers. What with the Rhododendrons a mass of colour above and the ground a mass of colour below—we were speechless with delight and admiration. We rode into Guatong 12,000 ft. about 4 p.m. very tired and very glad to meet our friends there, who were on their way down again. We spent a happy day together in Guatong. Guatong is not a pretty place. It is a cup of the mountains and we rode down into the Bazaar which was inches deep in mud and slush. It is a resting place for mules. However, the Bungalow is quite comfortable and we had lovely wood fires at which to warm ourselves. The Dak Runners come through here, and there is a good Post Office. We had our bread posted to us and found it waiting for us here—we stayed a couple of nights at Guatong and had an easy journey to our final destination—Kapup Dak Bungalow, 13,000 ft. We passed a herd of Yaks—cows and their calves which were being driven to greater heights as they cannot stand any heat. The hillsides here are covered with spruce which the people burn and which makes a very pleasant smell when burnt. It only took us about two hours slow riding to arrive at Kapup. The Bungalow consists of two rooms and is very clean. It is just at the foot of the Pass, which winds up in front of it. On one hand is a small lake, which is the source of the river "Jaldacco." We saw the little stream winding its way out and were very interested as the river comes down quite close to our home in the Duars. We were just on a watershed here and saw very close to each other the sources of three large

rivers, namely—the Jaldacca, the Teesta and the Toorsa—all of which come down through the Duars. When we arrived at Kapup we felt the cold intensely and had large fires put on. Only rhododendron wood is burnt here. We went soon to bed—as we were both feeling very headachy. Our heads got gradually worse and worse and we had a bad night of it. Next morning we found our Bearer and the Coolies were all ill with their heads and scarcely able to crawl round. The height has this effect on everyone, but after a while it passes off. We were told that we would have to get up to the top of the Pass early in the morning as a mist nearly always gathers as the day goes on. However, we were feeling so ill we did not manage to get out until 10 a.m. We felt better then and enjoyed the ride up the Pass. It is like one of the Passes in Scotland, with a little stream running down through the valley. The snow was melting on every side and pouring over the rocks. We climbed through some snow drifts and looked down into the little lakes. At last we came to the top, 14,300 ft., on which was a great Cairn of stones covered with little Prayer Flags. We passed round the Cairn and got our first view into Thibet. It was grand. We looked for miles down a long narrow valley—the mountains towering up on either side. About midway a peak jutted out, on which was built one of the Thibetan Monasteries. It looked very picturesque hanging over the valley. Just below us—we could have thrown a stone into it—was a little frozen tarn. This I believe is one of the sources of the Toorsa. Away at the end of the long valley the hills rise ridge upon ridge. We were looking down upon them, and as it was a fine clear day, the lights and shades on the hills were exquisite. On the extreme horizon the great snow peak of “Chumulhari” shone dazzling white. Just below we were told lies one of the Thibetan cities, “Phari Jong” by name. Just where the Monastery showed, midway down the valley, we could see another valley turning off to the side of it. This is the “Chumbi” valley and a small town called “Yatung” lies here. The Dak Runners passed us with the mails for Gyantse. They were running to Yatung and would arrive there in a couple of hours or sooner. We were sorry to have to say “Goodbye” and turn our backs on Thibet. The next morning we started on our downward road home. We were fortunate in leaving Guatong, in having a clear morning—no mist—and a magnificent view of “Kinchunjunga” 28,146 ft., and its enormous peaks. We saw it from 12,000 ft., so got a view of the great depth of the range. The highest peak looked from our point of view like an enormous throne or armchair. There was the back of the chair, and there were the deep seat and the two arms. We had ridden up to the Jelap La but had to walk down the stone staircase and were very relieved when we got to the end of it. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the way and felt that the trip had been well worth the doing.

LUCY RIPLEY (née BEATTY).